**The Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A schema generator, comprising:

a computer readable storage medium;

computer software stored on the computer readable storage medium and operable to:

parse a plurality of transaction definitions for a software system, wherein each transaction definition comprises one or more parameters; and

generate a plurality of schema definitions in response to the plurality of transaction definitions, wherein the schema definitions are written in a self-describing language;

wherein a first schema definition is operable to map the one or more parameters associated with a first transaction definition to a first document written in the self-describing language; and

wherein a second schema definition is operable to map a second document written in the self-describing language to the one or more parameters associated with a second transaction definition.

2. (Previously presented) The schema generator of Claim 1, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML) or any version thereof.

3. (Previously presented) The schema generator of Claim 1, wherein the self-describing language comprises HyperText Markup Language (HTML) or any version thereof.

4. (Original) The schema generator of Claim 1, wherein the self-describing language comprises a language that employs hypertext.

5. (Previously presented) The schema generator of Claim 1, wherein the software system comprises an Information Management System (IMS).

6. (Original) The schema generator of Claim 1, wherein the transaction definitions are associated with a message format service.

7. (Previously presented) The schema generator of Claim 6, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML) or any version thereof.

8. (Previously presented) A method for generating a plurality of schema definitions, comprising:

parsing a plurality of transaction definitions for a software system, wherein each transaction definition comprises one or more parameters; and

generating a plurality of schema definitions in response to the plurality of transaction definitions, wherein the schema definitions are written in a self-describing language;

wherein a first schema definition is operable to map the one or more parameters associated with a first transaction definition to a first document written in the self-describing language; and

wherein a second schema definition is operable to map a second document written in the self-describing language to the one or more parameters associated with a second transaction definition.

9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML) or any version thereof.

10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the self-describing language comprises HyperText Markup Language (HTML) or any version thereof.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the transaction definitions are associated with a message format service.

12. (Original) A transaction processing system comprising:

a software service operable to receive a transaction request and to generate a first object associated with the transaction request;

an object generator operable to convert the first object into a first document written in a self-describing language; and

a document generator operable to convert the first document into a first transaction message according to a schema associated with a first transaction type determinable from the first document.

13. (Previously presented) The transaction processing system of Claim 12, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML) or any version thereof.

14. (Previously presented) The transaction processing system of Claim 12, wherein the self-describing language comprises HyperText Markup Language (HTML) or any version thereof.

15. (Original) The transaction processing system of Claim 12, wherein the transaction generator is further operable to send the first transaction message to a message format service.

16. (Original) The transaction processing system of Claim 12, wherein the document generator is further operable to receive a second transaction message and convert the second transaction message into a second document according to a schema associated with a second transaction type determinable from the second transaction message; and

wherein the second document is written in the self-describing language.

17. (Original) The transaction processing system of Claim 16, wherein the object generator is further operable to convert the second document into a second object.

18. (Original) The transaction processing system of Claim 17, wherein the software service is further operable to receive the second object in response to the transaction request.

19. (Previously presented) The transaction processing system of Claim 18, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML).

20. (Original) The transaction processing system of Claim 16, wherein the software service is further operable to receive the second document in response to the transaction request.

21. (Original) The transaction processing system of Claim 12, wherein the software service comprises a web service and wherein the definition of the first object has been published in a registry.

22. (Original) A method for processing a transaction, comprising:

receiving a transaction request;

generating a first object associated with the transaction request;

converting the first object into a first document written in a self-describing language; and

converting the first document into a first transaction message according to a schema associated with a first transaction type determinable from the first document.

23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML) or any version thereof.

24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein the self-describing language comprises HyperText Markup Language (HTML) or any version thereof.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 22, further comprising:

sending the first transaction message to a message format service.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 22, further comprising:

receiving a second transaction message;

converting the second transaction message into a second document according to a schema associated with a second transaction type determinable from the second transaction message; and

wherein the second document is written in the self-describing language.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 26, further comprising:

converting the second document into a second object.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising:

receiving the second object in response to the transaction request.

29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, further comprising:

wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML).

30. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein the first object is generated by a web service and wherein the definition of the first object has been published in a registry.